

Claims

What is claimed is:

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1. A system for representing at least one of an audio and visual program, comprising:  
a token having a schema that identifies a corresponding program so that a recording system receiving the token is programmable to record the program based on the token, the token being transportable between at least two computers.
  2. The system of claim 1, wherein the token is operatively associated with a message component that is transportable between the at least two computers.
  3. The system of claim 2, wherein the message component is a text email message.
  4. The system of claim 1, wherein the predefined schema includes elements identifying sufficient characteristics of the corresponding program so that the recording system is programmable to record the corresponding program in response to receiving the token.
  5. The system of claim 4, wherein the token schema includes a universal program identifier for the corresponding program.
  6. The system of claim 5, wherein the token schema includes a plurality of program characteristics that identify different aspects of the corresponding program.
  7. The system of claim 1, wherein the token is transmittable as a component associated with a message sent from a first computer to a second computer, the first computer not being directly connected to the first computer.

8. An electronic signal adapted to be transmitted between at least two computers comprising a message component having an associated token, the token having a schema that includes program criteria representing a corresponding program of at least one of an audio and visual program.

9. The signal of claim 8, wherein the message component further includes a text component to which the token is operatively associated.

10. The signal of claim 9, wherein the token is an attachment to the text component of the message.

11. The signal of claim 8, wherein the signal is provided from a server computer to a client computer, the message originating at a different computer and addressed to an address associated with the client computer.

12. The signal of claim 11, wherein the message is a text email message.

13. The signal of claim 8, wherein the schema includes elements identifying sufficient characteristics of the corresponding program so that a recording system receiving the signal is programmable to record the corresponding program based on the token.

14. The signal of claim 13, wherein the token schema includes a universal program identifier for the corresponding program.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein the token schema includes a plurality of program characteristics that identify different aspects of the corresponding program.

16. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable components, comprising:

a first component containing data representing a text email message; and  
a second component operatively associated with the first component, the second component including a token having a schema that includes program criteria representing a corresponding program of at least one of an audio and visual program.

17. The computer-readable medium of claim 16, wherein the token is an attachment to the text email message.

18. The computer readable medium of claim 16 having further computer-executable components for addressing the email message to an address associated with a remote computer and sending the message and associated token to the remote computer.

19. The computer readable medium of claim 16, wherein the program criteria of the token further includes sufficient characteristics of the corresponding program so that a recording system receiving the token is programmable to record the corresponding program based on the token.

20. A system for facilitating programming of an associated device comprising:  
means for extracting a token from a message received from another computer; and  
means for providing a token having a schema that includes program criteria for identifying a corresponding program of at least one of an audio and visual program.

21. The system of claim 20, wherein the program criteria includes elements identifying sufficient characteristics of the corresponding program so that a recording system receiving the token is programmable to record the corresponding program based

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on the token.

22. A method for facilitating programming an recording system, the method comprising:

receiving a message having at least one associated token; and

extracting a token from the message, the token having a schema that includes program criteria representing a selected broadcast program.

23. The method of claim 22, further including programming operation of the recording system to record the selected broadcast program based on the program criteria of the extracted token.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein the message is text email message, the token being received as an attachment to the text email message.

~~24~~ 25. The method of claim 22, further including addressing the message to an address associated with a remote computer and sending to the remote computer the message and the associated token.

~~25~~ 26. The method of claim 22, wherein the program criteria of the token further includes sufficient characteristics of the corresponding program so that a recording system receiving the token is programmable to record the corresponding program based on the token.